

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

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C3 1. (Currently Amended) A locking device for an elongate object comprising:

a strap having first and second ends;

a first loop at the first end of the strap for ~~fitting about~~ encircling a first end of an elongate object;

a second loop interconnectable at one of a plurality of locations <sup>along</sup> with the second end of the strap, the second loop being adjustable in size for ~~fitting about~~ encircling a second end of an elongate object; and

a lock for interconnecting the second loop at the one of the plurality of locations of the second end of the strap and for locking the size of the second loop.

2. (Previously Amended) The device of claim 1 further comprising a tether extending from the locking device for attaching an elongate object to a fixed object.

3. (Original) The device of claim 2 wherein the tether includes a stopper interconnected therewith for positioning within a car window for attaching the strap and an elongate object to a car.

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cont.

4. (Original) The device of claim 3 further including a pouch interconnected with the tether for storing the locking device when not in use.

5. (Original) A locking apparatus for an elongate object comprising:

a first loop positionable about a first end of an elongate object;

a second loop positionable about a second end of an elongate object;

a strap for connecting the first and second loops;

a tether interconnected with the strap for attachment to a fixed object; and

a lock for locking the device.

6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 5 wherein one of the first or second loops is adjustable in size.

7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the strap is adjustable in size.

8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 6 wherein the strap is adjustable in size.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 6 wherein the size of the adjustable loop is fixed by the lock.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 7 wherein the size of the strap is fixed by the lock.

11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the tether extends from one of the loops.

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the tether extends from the strap.

13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 5 wherein a stopper is attached to the tether for connecting the locking apparatus to a vehicle.

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13 wherein a storage bag is connected to the tether.

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cont.  
15. (Original) A method of locking an elongate object comprising:

positioning a first loop about a first end of an elongate object;

positioning a second loop about a second end of an elongate object;

securing a strap between the first and second loops;

locking the strap to one of the loops;

providing a tether attached to the strap; and

securing the tether to a fixed object.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein a stopper is provided on the tether and the step of securing the tether to a fixed object comprises extending the tether through an open car window to position the stopper within a car and raising the window to secure the stopper within the car to fix an elongate object to a car.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein a storage bag is interconnected with the tether and the method further includes storing the loops and strap within the storage bag when not in use.

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Cont.

18. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein the step of securing the tether to a fixed object comprises extending the tether about a fixed object and locking an end of the tether to the strap.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18 wherein the tether is locked to the strap at the location where the strap is locked to one of the loops.

20. (Currently Amended) A locking apparatus for a surfboard comprising:

an adjustable loop formed of a flexible material for extending about a surfboard positioned between fins extending from the surfboard and a wide middle portion of the surfboard;

a lock for fixing the size of the adjustable loop;

a tether strap interconnected with the adjustable loop; and

a stopper interconnected with the tether strap, the stopper rides on the tether and a rivet at the end of the tether retains the stopper on the tether;

whereby, the stopper is positionable within a car window and the window can be raised against the tether strap to retain the stopper within the vehicle to lock the surfboard to a car.

21. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim ~~20~~ 23 wherein the stopper rides on the tether and a rivet at the end of the tether retains the stopper on the tether.

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22. (Previously Added) The locking apparatus of claim 20 wherein the tether strap is formed of an excess length of the flexible material that forms the adjustable loop.

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C4

23. (New) A locking apparatus for a surfboard comprising:

an adjustable loop formed of a flexible material for extending about a surfboard positioned between fins extending from the surfboard and a wide middle portion of the surfboard;

a lock for fixing the size of the adjustable loop;

a tether strap interconnected with the adjustable loop, the tether strap formed of an excess length of the flexible material that forms the adjustable loop; and

a stopper interconnected with the tether strap;

whereby, the stopper is positionable within a car window and the window can be raised against the tether strap to retain the stopper within the vehicle to lock the surfboard to a car.

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24. (New) A locking apparatus for a surfboard comprising:

an adjustable loop formed of a material flexible along its entire length for extending about a surfboard, the loop positioned between fins extending from the surfboard and a wide middle portion of the surfboard;

a lock for fixing the size of the adjustable loop;

a tether strap interconnected with the adjustable loop; and

a stopper interconnected with the tether strap.

25. (New) The apparatus of claim 24 wherein the stopper rides on the tether and a rivet at the end of the tether retains the stopper on the tether.

26. (New) The locking apparatus of claim 24 wherein the tether strap is formed of an excess length of the flexible material that forms the adjustable loop.

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